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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:47:01 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

March 24, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1399 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: ASEC, AMGT, PTER, PREL, EAID, PGOV  
Captions: None  
Subject: TFIZ01 (EAC): ABU DHABI SITREP NO. 5, MARCH 24  
Ref: None

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S E C R E T ABU DHABI 01399

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: POL  
INFO: RSO AMB DCM P/M ADM ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM: RALBRIGHT  
DRAFTED: ECON:CCRUMPLER  
CLEARED: POL:STWILLIAMS RS:JROONEY PAO:KVANDEVATE DAO:MWEAVER

VZCZCADI524  
OO RUEHC RUCNRAQ RUEKJCS RUMICEA RUEKJCS RUEHDE  
DE RUEHAD #1399/01 0831131  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
O 241131Z MAR 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9014  
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUMICEA/USCINCCENT INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI PRIORITY 2916

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001399

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IRAQ TASK FORCE, ALSO NEA/ARP, NEA/EX,  
CA/OCS/NEASA, DS/DSS/ITA, DS/IP/NEA, DSERCC, AND M

E.O. 12958: DECL 03/24/13  
TAGS: ASEC AMGT KHLS PTER PREL EAID PGOV TC  
SUBJECT: TFIZ01 (EAC): ABU DHABI SITREP NO. 5, MARCH 24

REF: ABU DHABI 1381 AND PREVIOUS

¶1. (U) Classified by DCM Richard A. Albright, for reasons  
1.5 (B) and (D).

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General Overview  
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¶2. (U) COM convened Abu Dhabi's Iraq Task Force/core  
Emergency Action Committee (EAC) at 1000 local time, 3/24.  
Embassy Abu Dhabi, FCS (located outside of the Embassy  
compound), and the USGS office in Al Ain are open 3/24 with

full staffing.

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Consular Issues  
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¶3. (U) The Consular Section resumed visa services today and has received few calls from concerned AMCITS. One of the wardens from the Abu Dhabi-based Higher Colleges of Technology contacted CONS and RSO yesterday to report that the university had received a threatening email. Per instructions from RSO, the warden passed the information to local police, who are investigating the threat.

¶4. (U) FCS noted that the American business community remains calm, but reaction from local contacts ranges from support for the military campaign in Iraq and determination to oust Saddam Hussein, to anger and unwillingness to meet with FCS Commercial Officers.

¶5. (C) The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) -- representatives from the American business community who liaise with RSO on security matters -- has met once a week for the last month and will reconvene on 3/25. OSAC confirmed to RSO that very few American businesspeople and their dependents have left the UAE since the onset of hostilities in the region.

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UAEG Actions/Statements  
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¶6. (S) DAO noted that yesterday NAVCENT received outstanding cooperation from the UAE Navy, which located, interdicted and searched the fishing vessel "BUSHRA II" and released it to Coalition naval forces. The UAE Navy was also trying to locate the motor vessel "MARWAN", which may be in UAE waters or in port. Like the "BUSHRA II", the "MARWAN" is suspected of being involved in mining operations in the Gulf on behalf of the Iraqi regime.

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Security  
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¶7. (C) RSO confirmed that security inspection of American and FSN employees at the Embassy would begin tomorrow 3/25. Inspections will occur on a random, but reoccurring basis.

¶8. (S) ORCA and DAO mentioned a number of recent, uncorroborated threat reports of an impending attack against American interests in the Gulf, but noted there were no specific threats related to the UAE.

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Local Media  
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¶9. (U) PAO reported that stories of Iraqi civilian casualties and the U.S. POWs dominated the local papers today. Today's local press contained little coverage of General Abizaid's news conference, probably owing to the fact that the conference occurred at 2300 local time -- too late to make the newspapers.

¶10. (U) Unlike Abu Dhabi TV, which has presented balanced news reporting -- for example, it has not shown the footage of the U.S. POWs -- satellite-channel Sharjah TV's backdrop showed repeated stills of the bombing of Baghdad. Sharjah TV also hosted yesterday UAE lawyer Dr. Mohammed Al-Rukn, who quoted a British general from the 1917 occupation of Baghdad and suggested that the U.S.-led Coalition intends to occupy Iraq and steal its natural resources. Abu Dhabi TV and Al-Arabiyya channels showed footage of Iraqi civilian casualties in hospitals.

¶11. (U) Abu Dhabi Iraq Task Force/EAC will reconvene at 1000 local time, 3/25.

¶12. (U) Iraq Task Force/EAC members in attendance included AMB, DCM, RSO, DAO, P/M, POL, ECON, CONS, MSG, OBO, PAO, ADMIN, USLO, FCS, FBI.

Wahba